



Northern white cedar — Eric Epstein



MISCAUNO CEDAR SWAMP WETLAND TYPES

Coniferous swamp, alder thicket

MARINETTE COUNTY



MISCAUNO CEDAR SWAMP

Property Owner: WDNR

Recognitions & Designations: WI State Natural Area, WI Wildlife Action Plan Reference Site

Funding for this project provided by the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act, Grant #NA07NOS4190064.

ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

Miscauno Cedar Swamp features extensive, high quality coniferous swamp over dense sphagnum peat located in steep moraine topography in the northeastern most part of Wisconsin. These wetlands are situated on steep hillslopes along the South Branch of Miscauno Creek, a coldwater trout stream. Calcareous groundwater seepages along these swampy hillslopes create pockets of standing water and headwater springs that feed the creek. While these wooded wetlands are second growth, several rare plants have been documented at this site and the habitat type and quality suggest that it has the potential to support several others.

FLORA & FAUNA

The canopy of these swamps is dominated by white cedar and black spruce with additions of black ash and elm trees along the stream. Underneath the canopy are balsam fir saplings and sparse shrubs including alder, alder leaved buckthorn and Hudson Bay currant. The herb layer is moderately dense and characterized by three-seeded sedge, two-seeded sedge, three-leaved Solomon's plume, goldthread, snowberry, marsh fern, European swamp thistle, bristle-stalked sedge, tussock sedge, bluejoint grass, fowl manna grass and marsh willowherb. Dense sphagnum mosses and peat underlie



Tamarack needles in autumn — David Schwaegler

these swamps. Tamarack snags suggest the site once supported a tamarack dominated swamp before logging. The southeast corner of this site is mostly alder thicket.

Breeding bird surveys have documented uncommon birds such as ravens, hermit thrush, black-and-white warbler, pine warbler, scarlet tanager and black-billed cuckoo during the nesting season. The rare red-shouldered hawk may also use this site.

THREATS

This site retains some logging related impacts due to logging history that includes a 20-year research study looking at the effects of cedar thinning. Logging of adjacent uplands has also impacted these wetlands. Impacts from heavy deer use are evident in some areas of the site, posing a threat to regeneration of conifer trees. Future invasion by the emerald ash borer beetle threatens the site's ash trees.

ACCESS

For details, visit the State Natural Areas Program website: dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna.



Eastern gray tree frog — Gary Shackelford

Sources:

Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program (WDNR)
Wisconsin's Strategy for Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need (WDNR)